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U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE
ON INTELLIGENCE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

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Admiral B. R. Inman
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence
Washington, D. C. 20505

Dear Admiral Inman:

Thank you for your recent letter concerning questions that have been asked in the course of the Subcommittee on Program and Budget Authorization's consideration of the FY 83 NFIP budget request.

I believe some misunderstanding may have arisen about this matter. Either Mr. Robinson or I asked nearly every NFIP and TIARA program manager who appeared before the Subcommittee this year the question to which you allude. Every program manager who was asked responded to the question. I appreciate your bringing this issue to my attention because I had been unaware that one of those responses may not have been complete.

I appreciate your candor because I disagree that the information which the Subcommittee sought was of little value. In matters involving the public purse, Presidential priorities are of the utmost importance. So, too, are those which may have been developed in other fora. The Subcommittee's responsibility - which I believe it has exercised fairly and thoroughly - is to evaluate all such preferences and to make its own judgment of what is in the nation's interest. I believe, in other words, that the Subcommittee is capable of weighing the relevance of the subject matter in question.

Your letter seems to distinguish between the Committee's staff and the Committee. I receive the impression that you believe that the staff sometimes acts for a purpose of its own, not for that of the Committee. That is not the case. Since the inception of the Committee, I have paid great attention to the selection of the staff of the Committee. I believe them to be perhaps the finest in the Congress. Further, they act under close direction and are all responsible to me. In matters such as the one you raise in your letter, they were not involved, but had they been, this would have been a request that came from the Committee, not from some separate element, "the staff."

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely yours,

EDWARD P. BOLAND
Chairman

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